(c) whether Government have any scheme to tie-up with other airlines for carrying Haj pilgrims so that inconvenience could be avoided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a)The arrangements for movement of Haj pilgrims from India to Saudi Arabia and back are made by Air India in close coordination with Indian Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

International carriers to Indian destinations

441. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than forty international carriers have shown interest to fly to India during the next one year;

(b) if so, the names of the airlines which have shown interest to fly to Indian destinations; and

(c) whether Indian Airlines and Air India are planning to reduce their air fares between Delhi and USA, UK, Europe and South East Asian countries in view of competition and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Traffic rights for flying to India are available to the designated airlines of 100 countries, who have entered into Air Services Agreements with India. Actual operations are however matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned. A total of 58 foreign airlines are presently operating to India.

(c) All airlines operating on international sectors are free to apply tariff of their choice. Air India/Indian Airlines have also established appropriate fares taking into account market dynamics and competition. They keep constant vigil on market fluctuations in order to react suitably.